

Minutes of the Economic Development Council Meeting

April 8, 2014

Tulsa Community College
Center for Creativity

Members present:

Kathy Harrell, CASC (via-video); Janet Wansick, EOSC; Steven Bloomberg, OCCC;
Diane Murphey, OPSU, (via-video); Jeri Koehler, RSC; Stan Greil, RSC; Doug Misak,
SWOSU (via-video); Anthony (Tony) Bretti, TCC; Mark Kinders, UCO

Guests present:

Anita Gordy-Watkins, OSUIT; Cornell Cross, OCAST; Tony Hutchison, Connie Lake,
Randy McCrary and Renae Brill, OSRHE staff.

1. Welcome and Introductions of all members and guests

Vice Chairperson Janet Wansick called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Introductions were made and guests were welcomed.

2. Approval of February 11, 2014 EDC meeting minutes

Upon a motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the minutes of the February 11, 2014 meeting of the Economic Development Council were approved as presented.

3. Main Topic: Cornell Cross - OCAST

Mr. Cornell shared with the Council information about OCAST programs. OCAST works with entrepreneurs, researchers and companies that are early in the development process by helping them fund research to prove their ideas, linking them to larger funding sources and introducing them to other researchers and resources to strengthen their ideas. In their 26-year history, OCAST has funded more than 2,450 research projects and provided support to hundreds of Oklahoma-based companies. The investment made in those businesses yields a high return to the state – from increasing tax revenue to improving the quality of life of people around the world.

4. Best Practice: “Alternative Fuels Program” by Steven Bloomberg, OCCC

OCCC is a pioneer in the alternative fuel industry and has been an integral part of the State’s initiative to increase the safe use of alternative fuels. In addition, the college has also been instrumental in developing and amending State regulations as they pertain to alternative fuel technician certification. OCCC was approached by Oklahoma Management Enterprise System (OMES) and the Division of Capital Asset Management’s (DCAM) - Alternative Fuels Program to develop both the Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Certification and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Certification programs. The relationship between DCAM – Alternative Fuels Program and OCCC has been a truly symbiotic one as they have been able to implement CNG and LPG Certification programs that surpass the rigorous standards of any other alternative fuel certification program in the country.

As evidence for a “Best Practice”, this presentation will focus on the history, development, and future plans for the Alternative Fuels Institute at OCCC.

5. 2013-14 EDC Priorities

a. EDC Internship Program, Rick Wetherill, committee chair

No update at this time.

b. Economic Development Reporting Template, Arun Tilak, committee chair

Ms. Lake shared with the Council a draft of the reporting template. She stated that the committee needs to approve the draft. This will be sent out to the Council, hopefully around mid-April, which would allow institutions four weeks to respond.

c. Regents Business Partnership Excellence Award ceremony and reception, Sheri Snyder, Committee Chair

Ms. Lake shared with the Council the survey results for the RBPE program and handed out a survey for the online submission process to the Council to get their feedback. Ms. Lake stated that when Chancellor Johnson approves the transmittal letter, the \$500 grant will be transferred to each institution.

6. OSRHE update by Tony Hutchison

Mr. Hutchison shared with the Council some legislative updates and he spoke about the NGA dashboard metrics. He advised that the State Regents will be able to include graduates and degrees as part of the 5-6 agency items used in the dashboards. He hopes to add additional information such as SBDC activity, entrepreneurship, patents and grant information.

7. Commerce update by Connie Lake

Ms. Lake handed out a copy of the OKHigherEdConnect spreadsheet. She will send an electronic version to the Council, so they can update their institutions information. Two other handouts were passed around, Quality Workforce Act and the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Ms. Lake asked the Council if they would like to continue with the EDI training. The Council discussed and decided that Ms. Lake can send out a survey on what type of training the Council would like to see.

8. Bring Successes! Be prepared to share in two minutes what is happening at your institution

Steven Bloomberg - The Professional Development Institute (PDI) at OCCC has just signed the largest monetary contract for services in its history. PDI will be providing a customized educational program for Medley Material Handling. Medley Material Handling, founded in 1941, is an Oklahoma City based company who is one of the oldest and largest full line material handling equipment distributors in the southwest. Their equipment line includes aerial lifts and forklifts.

Janet Wansick – EOSC has started a new program, Pathway to Eastern, a gap-funding scholarship program that provides free tuition to 2014 graduates of Latimer County schools who enroll at EOSC the fall after they graduate. Students can earn free tuition for up to 64 attempted credit hours or three consecutive years, whichever comes first. Pathway to Eastern will cover the cost of tuition not fully covered by grants and scholarships. As long as students continue to meet their eligibility requirements, those enrolled in Pathway to Eastern will received tuition assistance regardless of how their other financial aid funding may change. The hope is that we can expand this program to other counties in our service area in the future. EOSC will be starting a radio station within the next year. We have acquired a license in the Red Oak area and hope to be on air soon. EOSC is working with the SET (Stronger Economies Together), a Kiamichi regional group taking the lead with the education group to develop an action plan to increase educational attainment in the region.

Diane Murphey –OPSU sent a Game Development team to the Heartland Gaming Expo held recently in Tulsa. The team won the Animation Award and took 3rd place overall. Also, the OPSU Business Club, Phi Beta Lambda, recently competed in the state contests. They came home with 18 Championships, 10 second place, and 5 third place finishes and qualified 21 of 24 participants for National contests to be held in Nashville this summer.

Doug Misak – SWOSU; The Pioneer Cellular Event Center is now officially open; the 93,000 square foot facility was opened with a special performance by Bill Cosby on April 3rd to a standing room only crowd.

9. New Business

No new business

10. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.